

St. James Episcopal Church  
A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!  
OCTOBER 2, 2016—THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



**GREAT THINGS GROW FROM SMALL BEGINNINGS**

Jesus said "The Kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed, a tiny seed, but grows and becomes a large tree, and the birds of the sky will lodge in its branches." Luke 13:18–19

The apostles said to Jesus, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you. Luke 17:5

**BRINGING THE GOSPEL HOME:  
THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS**

The Gospel passage for today (Luke 17:5-10) can be frustrating. We could think that Jesus is chastising us, saying that if we had even the tiniest bit of faith we would have super powers. Have you ever been able to talk to a tree and tell it to move? Move into the sea? Nope, not me. I don't think that's the message that Jesus wants to send. It might help to talk about this parable in the context of Luke 13. In that story Jesus reminds us that the tiny seed grows into a large tree that is beautiful, useful and gives food and shelter.

Children know that they will grow, and as they grow they will gain strength and abilities, just as the tree grows. However, today's parable is not about waiting until we are "big enough". It's about doing what we can, and doing it now. That our actions—like our faith—will grow, expand and take on new beauty and impact. Even the smallest child can do good things NOW by helping, loving, sharing, and giving.

Children often feel little and "not enough." Jesus says to them that they are "enough"—just as *the tiny mustard seed is enough*. Urge them to live as Jesus' disciple where ever they are and whatever they are doing. They can do it. They are big enough!

Word Search Puzzle

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| Y | O | U | S | M | K | M |
| L | O | V | E | E | I | U |
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KINGDOM, YOU, ME, SEED, GOD,  
MUSTARD, TREE, SHARE, HELP,  
LOVE, DEED, GIVE, AID

**Dinner Table Conversation:**

- **What did you do today to be helpful, loving or kind?**
- **What can you do tomorrow?**
- **What do you want to do when you are grown up? (Or to adults: What did you want to be when you were a kid?)**
- **What can you do now that you couldn't do last year?**
- **What are you learning to do?**